

# INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Great difficulties were encountered in fulfilling the 1951 drilling schedules in East Germany because of the shortage of drilling pipes, boring tools and other accessories. By a special order in 1951, inventories were made in all East German railroad repair plants of drilling pipes and other seamless steel tubes left by the so-called Mineralöl-Brigaden (mineral oil brigades).<sup>1</sup> Considerable stocks were located which helped to overcome the existing shortage.
2. Specific lists concerning the requirements for drilling equipment, pipes and accessories were submitted to the State Secretariat for Material Supply in Berlin and to the Minister for German Domestic and Foreign Trade in Berlin under the 1952 plan for material requirements. The officials of the Deutsche Innen- und Aussenhandel (DIA) (German Domestic and Foreign Trade) took these lists to a meeting held in Moscow in January 1952. The representatives of the DIA who attended the Moscow meeting were Mr. Brendel (fnu) and Mr. Klopp (fnu). The negotiations with the representatives of the Mashinexport in Moscow indicated that the U.S.S.R. could not supply component parts to be used to complete drilling equipment already in East Germany but could supply only drilling pipes which are already scheduled to be imported under an agreement concluded between the U.S.S.R. and East Germany. The East German representatives returned from Moscow without having achieved any results.
3. [redacted] that the requirements for drilling pipes in the U.S.S.R. are allegedly extraordinarily high, because large scale prospecting operations for mineral oil and ore deposits are under way in the U.S.S.R. The Vitkovice Ironworks in Czechoslovakia is also assigned to work for the U.S.S.R. East Germany, therefore, cannot expect to obtain any supplies of drilling equipment from Czechoslovakia.

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4. In connection with the drilling program of the Five-Year Plan, the State Secretariat for Material Supply ordered the State Geological Commission to compile new lists of the requirements for pipes and to submit the lists to Minister Heinrich Kau, who would again report the urgency of the request to Moscow and attempt to obtain supplies from the U.S.S.R. or from satellite countries.

- 25X1 1.   Comment: Mineral oil brigades is a designation used in eastern Germany during World War II for German detachments assigned to start drilling for crude oil in the Caucasus and other oil areas to increase the fuel supplies of the former German armed forces.

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